

THE OLD STONE HOUSE

TOWN OF GUILFORD

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GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06437
SETTLED IN 1639

March 8, 2010

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Planning and Development Committee
Co-Chairmen Brendan Sharkey and Eric Coleman
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representative Sharkey and Senator Coleman:

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 5255 – An Act Concerning Municipal Mandate Relief, because I believe the various components of this bill will provide much needed aid to towns trying to navigate through this economic crisis. I would, however, like to respectfully request your committee consider an addition to the bill that would allow municipalities to postpone revaluation for one year.


Granting the postponement of our scheduled 2012 revaluation would allow us more time to set aside the necessary funding. In preparation for revaluation, Guilford reserves an amount of money each of the preceding years, but this has become increasingly difficult due to severe budget constraints caused by the economic downturn. Additionally, allowing this postponement would also help to insure equity treatment among towns, since municipalities, which were to conduct revaluations in 2008, 2009 and 2010, were allowed to postpone for one year.

Another consideration is the potential for inflated revaluation costs due to an increased number of towns seeking revaluation services at the same time. When you factor in municipalities that previously delayed their revaluations one year, coupled with towns currently scheduled to conduct revaluations, this could increase competition for the limited number of revaluation companies and as a result, artificially raise prices.

There are many facets of House Bill No. 5255 that will substantially help municipalities during this challenging time and I appreciate the effort that has gone into crafting it. I do believe that by adding a section related to a one year delay of the revaluation mandate, it will only strengthen the aid this bill already provides.

I thank you in advance for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Mazza
First Selectman
Town of Guilford